

**The Eyes of a Child**

**It had the world's largest slide.** At least that's what I remember from the first time I went to Lake View Playground as a three-year-old. Ten years later, it's still a great place for a game of kickball or soccer, or to meet friends and neighbors of all ages.

**Now our playground is facing a bulldozer. Fifty years ago, the First Church of Medford leased the playground property to the city for \$1. With only one more year on the lease, the pastor has decided to sell the playground land to pay for renovations to the church. The company that plans to buy the lot wants to build condominiums on it.** The church may have little choice, but our neighborhood does. **We can save Lake View Playground if we all work together to buy the lot ourselves.**

**First, we need to write up a proposal and petition the city for funding. By getting as many signatures as possible on a petition to save the playground, we'll let the mayor and the city council know that the neighborhood, a neighborhood full of voters, is 100 percent involved in trying to save the playground.**

**Next, we bring our rakes, trash bags, and plenty of energy to Community Cleanup Day at the playground on Saturday, April 21.** On this cleanup day, kids can join with adults to show our commitment to our neighborhood.

The reality is that it will take cold, hard cash to purchase the playground land. **In addition to city funds, we need to apply for grants and begin our own fundraising efforts.** Here are the goals:

**City Funding:** 40 percent

**Grants:**

Community Foundation Grant: 25 percent

Green Acres Grant: 25 percent

**Neighborhood Fundraising:** 10 percent

**Our petition and the cleanup day will set the wheels in motion for city funding.** We need people who have experience in applying for grants to volunteer their time to get that effort underway. **The neighborhood's fundraising effort will begin at the Save Our Playground Spring Spectacular on Saturday, April 28.** Volunteers are also needed for this event to help with the raffle, the bake sale, and with games and events.

This is a huge challenge. **By working together we can save our playground so that many more kids will feel the excitement of riding "the world's largest slide" right here in their own backyard.**

opening "hook" arouses readers' curiosity

clear statement of problem and its causes

solution stated immediately after problem

writer suggests specific actions

explanation of cause-and-effect makes idea more convincing

writer suggests specific action

writer suggests specific actions

explanation of cause-and-effect makes idea more convincing

writer suggests specific actions

conclusion sums up key ideas and restates significance of the problem (that kids will be deprived of a great playground)